



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Investigative Report



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
 44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Thomas Shoemaker
 Activity Date: August 25, 2022
 Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 2002 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Thomas Shoemaker (Shoemaker) who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 1460 Triplett Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Shoemaker was identified as being a police officer who had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Shoemaker did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident and arrived on scene after the shooting. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

On June 27, 2022, Officer Shoemaker stated he was the passenger of what he believed was marked APD cruiser, Car 22, and his partner Officer Snader was the driver. Officer Shoemaker was wearing his standard APD uniform.

Both Officer Shoemaker and Officer Snader stated they believed they were in APD Car 22. Officer Connor and Officer Powell also stated they were in APD Car 22. Dispatch records show that Officer Shoemaker and Officer Snader were in APD Car 15 and that Officer Connor and Powell were in Car 22.

| | | | |
|-------|--------|--------------------------|------------------|
| AKE15 | Patrol | 1505 - Shoemaker, Thomas | 06/27/2022 00:33 |
| AKE15 | Patrol | 1500 - Snader, Zachary | 06/27/2022 00:33 |
| AKE22 | Patrol | 1483 - Connor, Travis | 06/27/2022 00:32 |
| AKE22 | Patrol | 1484 - Powell, Eric | 06/27/2022 00:32 |

Figure 1: Excerpts from dispatch records

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

SA Momchilov advised Officer Shoemaker that it was his understanding that he responded to a shooting scene on June 27, 2022. Officer Shoemaker advised that was correct. SA Momchilov asked Officer Shoemaker was caused him to respond to that scene.

Officer Shoemaker advised he heard a "chase go out" and that chase was initiated by Car [REDACTED]. Officer Shoemaker further advised he could not remember where the chase was initiated at but that he and Officer Snader began to respond to Car [REDACTED] s (Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] location because they were close. As they were traveling to Car [REDACTED] s location, Officer Shoemaker stated he heard them (Car [REDACTED] say, something along the lines of, that a shot had been fired from the vehicle and that they were okay. Officer Shoemaker believed he and Officer Snader were in the area of Arlington Street and Exchange Street when it was broadcasted that a shot had been fired. Officer Shoemaker stated, "Obviously that adds a little bit more to responding to them. They were getting on 8 south when that happened."

Officer Shoemaker advised that he and Officer Snader went down Exchange Street and then entered Route 8 south to assist with the pursuit. As the chase progressed, Officer Shoemaker stated he could not recall which exit they got off on but that they ended up on Firestone Boulevard eastbound, toward Main Street. Officer Shoemaker advised that he and Officer Snader arrived at Firestone Boulevard and Main Street when it was broadcasted that shots had been fired followed by radio silence.

At that time, Officer Shoemaker and Officer Snader went to Main Street and Wilbeth Road trying to locate where the officers were. Officer Shoemaker advised he observed additional cruisers on Wilbeth Road near the parking lot area and then proceeded to that location. Officer Shoemaker stated, "We stopped the cruiser, jumped out, I ran to the scene as Mr. Walker was being handcuffed. He was on his stomach at this time, still alive. When he was handcuffed, we patched some wounds on his back that appeared to be penetrating chest wounds, um I was, I did not apply the chest seals, another officer did, I just helped identify where they were. Once those two wounds were sealed the best that we could we rolled him over to his back. We applied more chest seals to his front and I believe a tourniquet went on both arms, both legs and we stuffed multiple wounds. I don't recall exactly, I know I attempted to stuff gauze in one wound near his groin area and I believe I held pressure on two other wounds."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Shoemaker if a Signal 21 was called. Officer Shoemaker stated, "I don't recall anybody saying Signal 21 but when an officer says shots fired that's essentially the same thing in my mind. When an officer says that it ups the danger to everybody in that area."

SA Momchilov then stated, "Would it be fair to say that a shots fired call would be an immediate response from all available units." Officer Shoemaker responded, "Absolutely."

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Investigative Report



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
 44301

Officer Shoemaker advised that he did not see or hear any portion of the shooting.

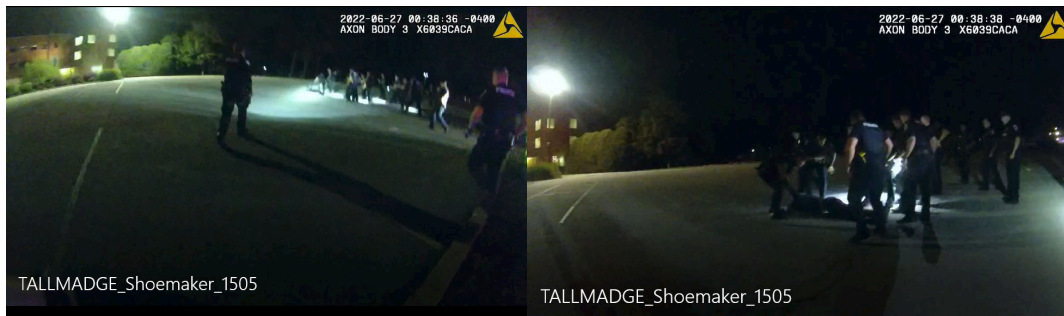
Officer Shoemaker advised that he did not speak or converse with any involved-officer.

Officer Shoemaker was wearing his body-worn camera and advised that he activated the camera as he was running up to the scene.

Officer Shoemaker stated he and Officer Snader were not directly involved in the pursuit.

At the end of the interview Officer Shoemaker was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage. Officer Shoemaker declined.

Officer Shoemaker did not complete a typed supplement or report.



The above images are from Officer Shoemaker's body-worn camera footage. Based Upon Officer Shoemaker's body-worn camera footage, he arrived on scene after the shooting.

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this report

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.